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Revision of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920.

* 1541 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state with reference to the answer to clause (*c*) of question No. 672 answered on 26th November 1928—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the question of revising the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, so as to make possible within reasonable time, free and compulsory for all children of school-going age; and

(*b*) if so, with what result?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The draft bill to revise the Elementary Education Act of 1920, which has been prepared is still under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know whether this draft Bill is likely to be presented in this House before this session?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I cannot give any definite statement at present."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Will it be presented before the life of this Council?"

The hon. Dr P. SUBBARAYAN:—"It has still to be considered along with the Local Boards Act."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN:—"May I know when they started?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"About a year ago."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister will see that this Bill comes up before the Council before his regime?"

Local Boards

Nomination of Mr. Gonsalves to the Nilgiris District Board.

* 1542 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the District Collector of Nilgiris has recommended to Government the nomination to that Board of one Mr. Gonsalves as member;

(*b*) whether the said Mr. Gonsalves stood recently for election to the Board and was defeated at the polls; and

(*c*) what is the number of Anglo-Indians and of the other communities on the Nilgiris District Board and why a defeated candidate was nominated to that Board?

A.—(*a*) The Government are not prepared to furnish the information.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The present nominated members of the Board are one Anglo-Indian, one Muhammadan and one member of the Depressed Classes. No defeated candidate has been nominated to the Board.

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know why the Government are not prepared to furnish the information ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Because the recommendations made by the President of the District Board are of a confidential nature."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Under what rules or laws ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It is very difficult to make recommendations when everybody is going to know every recommendation that is made."

Alleged delay in the payment of salaries to taluk boards teachers in the Salem and South Arcot.

* 1543 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the teachers in the service of the taluk boards of Salem and South Arcot are not paid their salaries regularly ;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the salaries are not paid even by the end of next month ;

(c) whether the Government will call for information from the teachers and the taluk boards and take necessary action against the delay in disbursement ; and

(d) whether the District Collectors of the respective districts or the Government have received any representation from the teachers of the taluk boards complaining about the late payment of salaries and what action was taken thereon ?

A.—(a) The Government received a report from the Director of Public Instruction stating that salaries to teachers were not paid promptly by the Sankari Taluk Board. They have no information in regard to the other taluk boards.

(b) In the case of the Sankari Taluk Board there has been a delay of a month in respect of some payments.

(c) The Government have called for information from the Presidents of the District Boards.

(d) The Government have not received any representations. They are not aware whether the Collectors of the concerned districts have received any. The information has been called for.

Principle underlying the nomination of minority and backward communities.

* 1544 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there is any principle or principles followed by the Government in the Local Self-Government Department in regard to the recognition and classification of communities as minorities and backward classes for the purpose of nominations to district boards and municipalities ?

A.—The Government have not attempted to classify backward or minority communities.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know the reason why Government have not attempted this very necessary task, necessary at least so long as nominations continue ? "